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By order of the E. R.
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HISTORY IN CITY STREETS

Highway Names Are Full of Meaning.

PROFESSOR LYONS TALKS OF ORIGIN

Historic Interest Attaches to the Names of Streets Here.

THE apparently outlandish names by which the majority of Honolulu streets are designated have for the older citizens a historic interest which makes every corner a reminder of the good old days of long ago. Street names in Honolulu denote events and people which for the Kamaaina and Hawaiian have a peculiar interest. The man who is probably more familiar with street history than any other man in Honolulu is Prof. Curtis J. Lyons, who not only laid out a large number of the streets of the city but gave them also the names by which they are distinguished. Of late real estate promoters have not exercised the same care in laying out streets as did the surveyors of years ago, and the newer additions to the city are designated generally without reference to any particular event or name.

"The early streets of Honolulu were irregular and there have been many changes from the old titles," said Prof. Lyons yesterday. "Way back in the forties King street was known as Kawaiahao street, from the church of that name, but later both Queen and King streets were given their names by the government."

"Nuuanu was then known as 'Fid' street because of the large number of saloons which lined it, but it was changed to Nuuanu because it is a continuation of the valley of that name. Maunakea was named at that time also. Richards was named after W. M. Richards, adviser of the chiefs in the time of Kamehameha III. Alakea, named also about that time, means white, and was formerly known as White street. It goes over white coral rock for a portion of the way, and derived its name from the coral formation. Punchbowl streets points towards Punchbowl, and in the forties it was one of the limits of the town. Beretania is the native name for British, and was so called because the British consul general had his residence on that street. The old consular residence near Punahou is one of the oldest buildings in Honolulu."

"In 1848 Surveyor Metcalf laid out the lower portion of the plains. At that time they called that portion of Beretania, Kamehameha street. I think I suppose the government selected the names of the streets laid out by Metcalf. Young street was named after John Young, the uncle of Queen Emma, who was her premier at that time. Alapai and Piko were named after native chiefs. Piko had a grove of coconut trees planted at his residence at the end of the street. "Keeaumoku street is named after the father of Kaahumanu, and Kinai was named about the same time, in 1848, for the mother of Kamehameha IV. and V. I think it was a mistake to lay out streets without making cross streets, as was done in this district. School street led to the Royal School, and Kukui street derived its name from the grove of kukui trees which grew in the royal grounds. Emma street, of course, derived its name from the Queen. Surveyor Webster laid out that street and also Judd street, which got its name because of the location of Dr. Judd's residence upon it. Liliha was the name of an ancient chieftess. "Wylie street was named for R. C. Wylie, minister of foreign affairs under Kamehameha III."

"I laid out some of the streets in 1874. Lunallilo was named after the King, or the suburb of that name, and Pensacola from the United States war ship which carried Lunallilo to Hill in that year. Wilder avenue was first called Stonewall street on account of the Kaahumanu wall located there, but was afterwards changed by the clerks in S. G. Wilder's office. "The streets on the Esplanade were laid out in 1869 by Webster, but for some reason were not named until 1875 by the survey office. We didn't bother with red tape at that time, but named them without waiting for the government. Allen street was named after W. F. Allen, collector general of customs. Governor Kekuanoua had his residence on the street which received that name, and Kilauaea was the name of the steamer to the wharf of which the street led."

"Halekauwila street has quite an interesting history. There was an old temple at Kona, known as Halekauwila, which was a place of deposit for the high chiefs in olden times. It was built over two hundred years ago of kauwila wood, but about the time of the missionary period the timbers were brought to Honolulu and used in the construction of the first government house on Halekauwila street. In this building the first constitutional business was transacted. It stood on the south part of what is now the Hackfeld premises. The land commission also had its offices there. In the Punahou district some of the streets are named after the presidents of the college: Dole, Alexander and Beckwith. Bingham street is named after the elder missionary of that name. Miller is named after the British consul general, whose house adjoined the street. Pauahi was named at the time of the big fire of 1886, after the mother of Mrs. Bishop, and Kekaulike street for the sister of Queen Kapiolani at the same time. These newer streets that were named by the real estate promoters I know little about—they were just named."

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